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## Watch the Watch-Dogs

Although Congressional pressure for a "watch-dog committee" for the Central Intelligence Agency is mounting, there are a number of reasons why this procedure should not be entered into without considerable thought.

At the moment, necessary and intense secrecy surrounds the CIA. Only a few members of the joint Armed Service Committee and the Appropriations Committee know its budget. This is scattered through the federal budget under the heading of various agencies, and by law, the CIA Act of 1949 specifically exempts the cloak-and-dagger agency from the provisions of any law requiring disclosure of the "organization, functions, names, official titles, salaries, or numbers of personnel employees."

Currently the CIA has some 20 field offices scattered throughout the United States, is reputed to have some 10,000 employees, and is the most covert of all U.S. operations. The domestic offices, incidentally, are for such diverse purposes as interviewing refugees on their knowledge of Iron Curtain events, discussing scientific events with those on college campuses, and other such activities. The location and number of foreign installations is secret. President Eisenhower has urged that no "witch-hunt" be conducted over the Cuba incident, and while it is obvious that much went wrong in the Caribbean invasion we are not sure that a Congressional inquiry will accomplish a great deal. More to the point is the investigation the administration is now running, headed by General Maxwell Taylor.

The principal problem is that a Congressional watch-dog committee might compromise the secrets of the agency. Most congressmen talk more than they should, and when American lives are at stake, it would seem wise to follow the procedures of the past.